

A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Every now and then
a new guy at Goodstone Aircraft Company
questions the way things are done.
Raising his hand at shop meetings
and writing letters to vice presidents
month after month after month,
he protests the inadequate tooling
and unclear blueprints,
expresses outrage
at the stacks and stacks of redundant paperwork,
bewails the lack of morale
and proper management,
and gets nowhere,
until finally he is reduced to lurching about the shop
blurting out truths and shouting incredulities
to machinist after machinist,
still getting nowhere,
and looking more and more each day
like that guy trying to stop cars on the highway
in "Invasion Of The Body Snatchers."

PRIDE

The supervisor tells us that the Air Force
will have auditors in the building walking around
watching us,
so that if we are going to walk around the shop
doing nothing
like we usually do,
we should at least carry manufacturing orders
in our hands,
and if we are going to gather at each other's machines
to bullshit,
we should bullshit with blueprints in our hands.
Also,
we should open those Goodstone Manufacturing Standards
books and find out what those funny looking symbols
and numbers on the blueprints
mean to tell us
about dimensional tolerances and standards,
just in case the auditors ask us questions about them.

I guess if we're going to be the morons and liars and
thieves that the supervisor has always said we are,
at least we can be Air Force approved
morons and liars and thieves.